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**PRESENTATION BY THE HONOURABLE PETER UNDERWOOD  
AC, GOVERNOR OF TASMANIA AT THE INTERNATIONAL  
DRAGON CLASS 2012 AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS,  
ROYAL YACHT CLUB OF TASMANIA, SATURDAY 14<sup>TH</sup>  
JANUARY 2012.**

Thank you very much for inviting me to join you this evening and in a short while to present the Jack Linacre Cup and the Holy Grail for all Dagon owners – the Prince Phillip Cup. As Governor of this island State I would like to add my welcome to those already extended to all the visitors who have come to Tasmania to take part in, or to support those who are taking part in the International Dragon Class 2012 Australian Championships.

Although this is the first time that I have been *asked* to play a role in the Prince Phillip Cup International Dragon Class Championships it is not the first time that I have been involved in the Championships. My previous involvement was here on the Derwent River in, I think it was, 1978 when the late Don Calvert was sailing his Dragon “Tahune”. In those days I owned a rather old, small fishing boat called the William K. She was a sturdy, if a little temperamental, vessel but much loved by me. On the first day of the Championships I went out to view the race and maneuvered the boat into a position in the middle of the course to get some fine pictures of the Dragons as they raced upstream towards us at a furious pace with their spinnakers straining at every seam. Now it was at this stage, as was sometimes the wont of the William K, that the engine decided that it needed a bit of a rest and despite my best endeavours

it could not be coaxed into action again and I was left to wallow broadside in the slop that the sea breeze had whipped up as the Dragons bore down on the William K at terrifying speeds.

Now I regret to say that although the Dragon skippers and crews of those days might well have been incredibly skilled yachtsmen, they had little by way of manners or command of the English language as they quite unreasonably, I thought, gave me instructions to move off the course and out of the way. These instructions were delivered in what can only be described as a preemptory and frankly hysterical manner. Every noun was coloured - unnecessarily, in my opinion with several adjectives that don't bear repetition at an occasion such as this. The level of hysteria as they swooped around the William K was so high that many of them spilled the wind out of their spinnakers and broached losing control of their boats.

Now, I have to tell you that remembering that occasion as well I do, I was more than a little surprised to receive Commodore Taplin's invitation not only to join you all for dinner, but also to present the Jack Linacre Cup and the Prince Phillip Cup. However, I optimistically took it as sign that 34 years on I had finally been forgiven the disruption I caused to the first race in 1978 and I would be safe once more to mingle with Dragon Class yachties. But, I should add that as a precaution I brought my security officer with me

this evening just in case there are some here who were racing in the 1978 Cup and who are not as forgiving as Commodore Taplin.

Before I sit down, or run for the exit, I would like to congratulate all those who competed in this year's racing. The International Dragon has been described as a truly thoroughbred racing yacht and it remains one of the few top level racing classes where sailing skills still predominate over crew weight and fitness.<sup>1</sup> It is those skills that make this racing such an exciting competition. I also congratulate the members of the RYCT, the International Dragon Association and all the volunteers who together with the yachtsmen have made this year's Championships such a great success.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.rsys.com.au/sailing/divisions/dragon.php>